



(The following article, written by the late Henry Craigin Walker, appeared in the June 1, 1950 issue of the Clipper - Ed.)

There is much free food in Duxbury if one is observant and wishes to hunt for it.

A considerable amount of wild asparagus may be found each spring. It usually grows on the edge of marshes, for asparagus was originally a salt water plant; growers of asparagus usually sprinkle salt on the beds, which also helps to keep out weeds. The wild variety is just as tender and palatable as the cultivated kind; I often pick enough in a few minutes for family use.

There are, too, large patches of wild strawberries and black thimble berries, and as many Duxburyites know, large areas of blueberries in season. There are several acres of blackberries on Clark's Island. I have gathered boat-loads there.

A common garden pest, which gardeners hate, is called Pig Weed by country people; its leaves are flat, with red stems, and when boiled tastes much like spinach. Thoreau, the sage of Concord speaks of making a meal of it in his fascinating book, *Walden*.

Large masses of beach plums flourish in Duxbury in the late fall, also elderberries, which make excellent wine.

Clams are still scarce here, but John Smith, a clam digger living on Powder Point, tells me they are coming back. For several years John sold his clams for as much as \$10 per barrel at the water's edge; very few dirt farmers can show such a return for so little work. During August, when the tides are very low, John gets in 2 diggings a day.

Quahaugs are still plentiful and make wonderful chowders, but no one has seen any smelt for several years; the disappearance of eel grass drove them elsewhere.

Young and tender mullen leaves when boiled are very tasty, and many people use them for dressing wounds.

Occasionally a swarm of wild bees is seen; but it is a tricky business to hive them. Vera Luttrupp of St. George St. used to raise bees and 'whip' the honey into a clear, appetizing syrup. Indeed, one could eat well from nature's gifts found in the fields and woods in Duxbury.
